Claims

1. A method of communication, the method comprising the steps of a first party communicating to a second party a composite credential across a distributed electronic network which composite credential comprises a plurality of credentials.

2. A method of communication according to claim 1, in which the second party communicates at least part of the composite credential to a third party.

3. A method of communication according to claim 2, in which the second party receives a composite credential and the second party modifies the received composite credential before communicating it to the third party.

4. A method of communication according to claim 2, in which the second party receives a composite credential and the second party communicates the received composite credential to the third party.

5. A method of communication according to claim 1, in which at least one credential in the composite credential is obfuscated.

6. A method of communication according to claim 5, in which a plurality of credentials in the composite credential is obfuscated.

7. A method of communication according to claim 5, in which all credentials are obfuscated within the composite credential.

8. A method of communication according to claim 6, in which different obfuscation is used for at least two credentials in the composite credential.

9. A method of communication according to claim 7, in which different obfuscation is used for at least two credentials in the composite credential.

10. A method of communication according to claim 7, in which different obfuscation is used for each obfuscated credential in the composite credential.

11. A method of communication according to claim 8, in which in a composite credential in which a plurality of credentials is variably obfuscated, the second party de-obfuscates at least one credential and communicates to a third party at least one obfuscated credential from the composite credential.

12. A method of communication according to claim 1, in which the composite credential comprises a first credential and a second credential in which the second credential is enveloped by the first credential.

13. A method of communication according to claim 1, in which a first party communicates to a second party an obfuscated composite credential comprising a first credential and a second credential in which the second credential is enveloped by the first credential, which obfuscated composite credential is de-obfuscated by the second party thereby to obtain the first credential and a partly de-obfuscated second

credential, which partly de-obfuscated second credential is communicated by the second party to a third party.

14. A method of communication according to claim 13, in which the third party de-obfuscates the partly de-obfuscated second credential.

15. A method of communication according to claim 1, in which the composite credential is obfuscated.

16. A method of communication according to claim 15, in which the first party communicates to the second party the composite credential, which composite credential is at least partly obfuscated, and the second party de-obfuscates a relevant credential.

17. A method of communication according to claim 1, in which at least one credential is digitally signed.

18. A method of communication according to claim 17, in which a plurality of credentials is digitally signed.

19. A method of communication according to claim 17, in which all credentials in the composite credential are digitally signed.

20. A method of communication according to claim 1, in which the composite credential is digitally signed.

21. A method of communication according to claim 1, in which the distributed electronic network is the internet.

22. A composite credential for communication of credentials across a distributed electronic network, the composite credential comprising a plurality of credentials.

23. A composite credential according to claim 22, in which at least one credential in the composite credential is obfuscated.

24. A composite credential according to claim 23, in which a plurality of credentials in the composite credential is obfuscated.

25. A composite credential according to claim 23, in which all credentials are obfuscated within the composite credential.

26. A composite credential according to claim 24, in which different obfuscation is used for at least two credentials in the composite credential.

27. A composite credential according to claim 24, in which different obfuscation is used for each obfuscated credential in the composite credential.

28. A composite credential according to claim 23, in which the obfuscation comprises asymmetric encryption.

29. A composite credential according to claim 22, in which the composite credential comprises a first credential and a second credential in which the second credential is enveloped by the first credential.

30. A composite credential according to claim 22, in which the composite credential is obfuscated.

31. A composite credential according to claim 30, in which the obfuscation comprises an asymmetric encryption.

32. A composite credential according to claim 22, in which at least one credential is digitally signed.

33. A composite credential according to claim 32, in which a plurality of credentials is digitally signed.

34. A composite credential according to claim 32, in which all credentials in the composite credential are digitally signed.

35. A composite credential according to claim 22, in which the composite credential is digitally signed.

36. A method of communication, the method comprising the steps of a first party communicating to a second party a composite credential across a distributed electronic network which composite credential comprises a plurality of credentials, and in which the second party communicates at least part of the composite credential to a third party.

37. A method of communication, the method comprising the steps of a first party communicating to a second party a composite credential across a distributed electronic network which composite credential comprises a plurality of credentials, and in which the second

party modifies the received composite credential and communicates at least part of the composite credential to a third party.

38. A method of communication, the method comprising the steps of a first party communicating to a second party a composite credential across a distributed electronic network which composite credential comprises a plurality of credentials, in which composite credential a plurality of credentials is variably encrypted, and the second party decrypts at least one credential and communicates to a third party at least one encrypted credential from the composite credential.

39. A method of communication, the method comprising the steps of a first party communicating to a second party a composite credential across a distributed electronic network which composite credential comprises a plurality of credentials, and in which the composite credential comprises a first credential and a second credential, in which the second credential is enveloped by the first credential.

40. A method of communication, the method comprising the steps of the first party communicating to the second party a composite credential across a distributed electronic network which composite credential comprises a plurality of credentials, and in which the first party communicates to the second party an obfuscated composite credential comprising a first credential and a second credential in which the second credential is enveloped by the first credential, which

obfuscated composite credential is de-obfuscated by the second party thereby to obtain the first credential and a partly de-obfuscated second credential, which partly de-obfuscated second credential is communicated by the second party to a third party.

41. A composite credential for communication of credentials across a distributed electronic network, the composite credential comprising a plurality of credentials, in which the composite credential comprises a first credential and a second credential, in which the second credential is enveloped by the first credential.